

# Draft Newtown School Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes



Monday 23 September 2024, 6.40pm  
Library



Board members: Joe Winkels (co-chair), Nick Booth (co-chair), Naomi Taylor, Trey Tanuvasa, Jess Gorman, Fatima Osman Amin, Katy Te Amo

Also present: Maraea Pukeke-Pine (kaiako), Venise Clark (kaiako), Debbie Purves (kaiako), Steve Kerr (minutes), Greg Cairns (parent), Eve Armstrong (parent)

Apologies: Nicki Read (tumuaki)

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## 1. Karakia timatanga

Joe welcomed everyone and confirmed there were no conflicts of interest.

## 2. Te Tiriti in action

All board members shared examples of honouring Te Tiriti in their lives. These included: being part of a mihi whakatau at work for new kaimahi, experience of the Ngāti Kotahitanga noho marae being on the marae together, enjoying te wiki o te reo Maori at school and talking with tamariki about what 'ake ake ake' forever language means, a workshop at the mosque learning about karakia and finding connections between culture, using AI to learn about the history of the haka.

## 3. Noho marae

Maraea and Venise presented the board on the recent Ngāti Kotahitanga noho marae at Te Pou o Tainui marae in Ōtaki. Maraea said Ōtaki was chosen because it's the marae of two Ngāti Kotahitanga whānau and to strengthen whakawhanaungatanga with a nearby marae. She said the tamariki learned the marae kawa of Tainui waka and learned about the different roles and responsibilities of the marae.

She said there was a full pōwhiri when we arrived, the hau kāinga were there and there was karanga and whaikōrero. She said that on the way to the marae the rōpū visited the house of Whaea Missy Banks, the first Ngāti Kotahitanga kaiako. Maraea said the tamariki went on a couple of excursions. The juniors went to a school disco at Te Kura o

Ōtaki and the seniors went to the Māoriland Film Festival on Friday. The tamariki also visited Rangiaatea Church.

Venise said she was really proud of the parents and their willingness to stand up and pull their weight and jump in. She said they had spent a day with Ōtaki kura doing gardening, waiata, mahi toi, etc. She said it was an amazing time, and that Ōtaki is the second reo capital after Rotorua. She said the students are still buzzing about meeting so many tamariki who could reo Māori. Maraea said it inspired the tama in particular because there so many at Ōtaki kura, whereas Ngāti Kotahitanga has mainly kōtiro. Venise said the Ngāti Kotahitanga tamariki were fulfilling their roles and responsibilities on the marae without being told.

Maraea said the noho finished a day early because there was a tangihanga at the marae. Debbie acknowledged the amazing mahi of Maraea and Venise. She said she was super impressed at their organisation and flexibility dealing with unexpected events. She said the whole kura is really proud.

#### **4. Playground thoughts and dreams**

Nick welcomed Eve and Greg and said that at the social, Nicki had spoken to Eve about the playground and Eve had had a lot of ideas, so Nick had invited Eve and Greg to the hui. Greg said he worked at WCC working with sculpture and parks. He asked the board members what they wanted for the playground?

Naomi said we could just do the repairs and maintenance to the playground, but she also felt like we could dream big and fundraise and create a space that really represents Newtown. She said we've already heard some great ideas, like creating a hāngī pit or a fale.

Eve said she's in the arts team and she's involved in codesign processes with artists and mana whenua in projects. She said playgrounds are really complicated because there are so many opinions and safety standards. She said the playground expert at the council suggested that the school start with an audit of what it has, and a survey to find out what people want in terms of different types of play, accessibility issues.

Trey asked if it was possible to talk to a specialist in neurodiversity issues in playground design. She said we want to see more of the community voices.

Naomi said maybe the council would want to help out, since the playground is heavily used by the whole community especially during the market. She said the fact that it's worn out is a sign of success.

Greg suggested getting some more quotes for the repair work that is needed. He said the council will have different suppliers. He also said the school should do an

assessment and make sure the playground is safe. Council team might be able to help with that.

- **ACTION - Property team (Naomi) will do a safety assessment to inform decision about whether to do a short term repair or take another approach**
- **ACTION - Co-chairs to add playground to agenda for future board meeting**

## **5. Changes to school board objectives and NELP (National Education and Learning Priorities) provisions**

Nick said that this item is about being aware of the consultation on proposed changes to school board objectives and NELP provisions in the Education and Training Act 2020. He said consultation closes on 14 October.

Trey said that the government wants the primary focus of schools to be achievement. She asked, what would achievement look like? She said every student comes in with a different story.

Naomi said that she thought it was important to make a submission on the proposal. She suggested creating a working doc.

- **ACTION - Jess to create document on shared drive for BOT members to add their comments on the proposal**

## **6. Tumuaki report including curriculum update**

Debbie spoke to the tumuaki report on behalf of Nicki. She asked the board to add an item to the next newsletter this week.

Tatarakihi screening - Katy said that Ngāti Kotahitanga has the opportunity to arrange a screening of the documentary *Tatarakihi: The Children of Parihaka*. She said the screening is important to Ngāti Kotahitanga as it explores our local history of Atiawa and Taranaki Whanui. She said she doesn't have full costs yet, but she asked if it was a kaupapa that the board is willing to support. Ideally it would be this year, but can go into next year.

Jess said that it sounds like something we would support. Nick said it would be good to see if we could screen it at a cinema.

- **ACTION - Nick and Trey to explore whether the screening of Tatarakihi could be held at a cinema**

ERO review process - Debbie said that process is ongoing.

Wellbeing principal fund - Debbie said that Nicki is proposing a visit to a couple of kura in Auckland.

Staffing - Debbie said that the school has received its staff allocation for 2025. The leadership team has started putting together some scenarios of what staffing may look like and will report back to a future hui.

Attendance - Debbie said that when we look at the data, it can look like there's a large number of students who are not attending. However, the data includes sickness absences, and a lot of people get sick in winter months. She said that also some families go on holiday. She said the school tracks the data and notices trends. The school follows up with anyone who might be a concern.

Arts - Debbie thanked Lily for all the mahi she's doing in the arts space. She said that you'll see that in the performance tomorrow. She's been amazing.

Staff - Debbie said that Danielle is back and it's great to have her back. She welcomed new TAs Grace Fakahau, Ronnie Tanuvasa, Chris Silvester and Ameera Yokhanna.

Debbie said that Juliet Davies has resigned.

- **MOTION - to accept Juliet's resignation**

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The board accepted her resignation with sadness and thanked her for all her mahi for the children and the school.

Debbie said the school has had pathways conversations with all kaiako.

Property - Debbie said that the sandpit is nearly complete and will open in term 4. She said the tamariki will co-construct the kawa. She said the school is getting quotes for the pool ventilation and the numbers for lessons are building slowly but surely.

Finance - Debbie said that ESOL budget is overspent but we know that there are more funds to come. She said relievers costs are over budget due to winter sickness.

Health and safety - Debbie said that a lock will be put on the medicine cupboard door. Next term there will be a trial repatriation.

Te wiki o te reo Māori - Debbie said that te wiki o te reo Māori was awesome, it was wonderful to hear the tamariki using te reo.

Instagram - Debbie asked board members whether they thought the school should have an Instagram account instead of Facebook. Board members said we could use both platforms. The comms might reach more families if it is on more platforms. Trey said she'd like to see tamariki more involved in the school's Facebook and website. Joe said it would be useful to know what the school's objectives are in terms of the use of Facebook.

- **ACTION - Co-chairs to add school website, comms, and social media to agenda for a future hui**

## 7. Portfolio reports

Finance - Jess said this was done.

Health and Safety - Nick said the committee met. Playground is the new issue.

Te Tiriti - Naomi said there's a report in the drive. There is an update on Te Tiriti stuff and the Ngāti Kotahitanga documentary screening.

Property - Naomi said there's a report in the drive.

Policy - Nick said he'd sent out an email with the new policies and there. Nick said it would be useful to reflect as a board on the school's policy to not do stand-downs, and to consider endorsing the policy as a board. That could help ensure the community understands and supports the policy, and understands what is done to address behaviour instead of stand-downs. But that is a conversation that would be best to have with Nicki here.

- **ACTION - Co-chairs to add school policy on stand-downs to agenda for a future hui**

Community Engagement - Trey said in May we talked a lot about the meaning of the terms community and engagement. She said that she and Fatima would like to speak about the challenges in the school in terms of cultural competence. She said that there are missing processes that we could do a better job of. For example, who should she go to for Samoan Language Week? Sometimes there are breakdowns. How can we make sure the school and the community come together? She said she had looked on school docs and couldn't find anything focusing on what a school needs to consider when celebrating a culture. She said she would like the board to come up with something more specific to support the kaiako and the community for those events. For example, using halal meat for events to feed everybody. She said she would like to see some overarching guidelines and processes so that we reduce the risk of people getting hurt.

Naomi said a community engagement policy would be really helpful. She said the work on the Te Whakamana policy that Yadana and Naomi developed might be a useful model.

## 8. Previous minutes and action items

The minutes of the previous meetings were approved as true and correct.

#	Action	Assigned to	Update
193	Draft up a health and safety overview document and bring to the board	Nicki	Carry forward
192	Get two quotes for sandpit cover and sand and provide to Steve for grants	Nicki	Close - done
191	Follow up with parents at social to seek volunteers to design, fundraise, project manage, the playground	Jess	Close - done
190	Ask Ro how to sign up school to Timebank, then do induction	Naomi	Close - done
189	Consider how to ask whānau at Whakanuia next week about barriers to achieving or excelling and possible solutions	Nicki	Carry forward
188	Form a sub-committee looking at barriers we are already aware of, actions we take and could take in relation to achievement data	Naomi, Trey, Fatima	Carry forward
185	Add session on identifying and supporting community connectors to future hui agenda	Joe and Nick	Close - done
184	Look into school's EEO obligations and report back to Nicki	Nick	Close - done
178	Look into what can be done to support Palestinian whānau	Naomi and Fatima	Carry forward
176	Send Steve two quotes for work to mitigate playground tripping hazard	Nicki	Close
175	Prepare a calendar of community events, language weeks, etc	Trey and Fatima	Carry forward
174	Add an item to reflect on Ramadan and school event scheduling, to	Nick and Joe	Close

	future meeting agenda		
173	Write up notes of how they see their portfolio responsibilities	All	Carry forward
172	Arrange an opportunity for the board to meet with the school parent who is interested in joining the board	Nick	Carry forward
170	Add consideration of draft co-option policy to future meeting agenda	Joe and Nick	Carry forward

## 9. Closing karakia

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Date of next meetings:

- Monday 21 Oct 2024
- Monday 25 Nov 2024
- Week commencing 9 Dec 2024, day TBC